

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) convened a Friday morning press conference in the Capitol Building to respond to recent anti-Iran rhetoric emanating from the White House. He was joined by five Members of Congress who have also been voicing their concern over this looming crisis.

"We're here this morning to expose the fact that Congress is very, very concerned and angry with this administration's saber-rattling over Iran," Rep. Farr said in opening the press conference. "I think the American public doesn't realize how concerned we are and how many measures have been introduced in the House and in the Senate to do something about it."

"It seems to me it's Iraq all over again," Rep. Farr said.

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) each spoke of their fears the administration plans to attack Iran.

"We're concerned that the drumbeat to war against Iran is increasing daily and is strikingly similar to the same drumbeat we heard that led up to the invasion of Iraq nearly 5 years ago," Rep. Lee said, promoting a bill she introduced earlier this year that would make it U.S. policy not to enter into a preemptive war with Iran in the absence of an imminent threat.

Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) spoke of his idea to convene an Iran War Game, a gathering of current and past military and intelligence experts to forecast what a conflict with Iran might entail.

"If we had been presented the option of what we have in Iraq today," Rep. McDermott said, "how many members do you think in Congress would have said, 'Yeah, that sounds like a good idea, let's go for it. Let's spend \$600 billion, let's lose 4,000 people, let's destroy our army.' ... Would we have done that if we had sat and looked at the options?"

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas) and Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) expanded on the threats posed by the White House, warning that an unchecked White House is a very dangerous thing.

"I think that increasingly and unfortunately, we realize the Dick Cheney's itchy-trigger finger is one of the greatest dangers to the security of our families," Rep. Doggett said, adding that Congressional hearings have suggested that the chances of the White House pursuing war with Iran is 50/50.

For more information on the press conference, actions taken by the House and Senate or other material, contact Tom Mentzer at tom.mentzer@mail.house.gov or call 202-225-2861.

###